

Message Text

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SUBJ: SENATOR PERCY'S MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN

1. SENATOR PERCY, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR AND STAFF MEMBER CALVIN FENTRESS, MET WITH KING HUSSEIN JANUARY 20 FOR HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTE DISCUSSION OF ARAB-ISRAELI QUESTION, OIL, AND U.S.-JORDAN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. SENATOR ASKED KING FOR HIS VIEWS ON PRESENT POSITION OF JORDAN IN AREA AND NEGOTIATIONS AND ROLE OF JORDAN IN FUTURE. KING REPLIED IN FAMILIAR VEIN, SKETCHING OUT DEVELOPMENTS PRIOR TO AND FOLLOWING RABAT SUMMIT CONFERENCE, NOTING MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, IMPLYING THAT JORDAN REGRETTED BEING OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR TIME BEING, BUT HOLDING OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT THE OTHER ARABS MIGHT SEEK TO BRING JORDAN BACK IN AGAIN. KING DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL FLOW OF EVENTS PRE AND POST RABAT AND PROVIDED SOME DETAILS ON POSITIONS WHICH HE TOOK WHICH HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

3. SENATOR THEN RAISED QUESTION OF OIL AND KING REPLIED WITH POSITION HE HAS PREVIOUSLY TAKEN THAT ARABS MUST BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY AND THAT IN PARTICULAR, UNDEVELOPED ARAB STATES SHOULD SHARE IN THE BENEFITS OF OIL MONEY. SENATOR MADE CLEAR THE HE HAD ENCOURAGED FAISAL AND OTHER OIL RULERS IN THIS DIRECTION, NOTING THAT THEY COULD FUND DIRECTLY BENEFICIAL PROJECTS IN POORER ARAB STATES AND U.S. WOULD ASSIST WITH TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN KNOW-HOW.

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4. CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO ISRAELI ATTITUDES AND KING SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED IN RABIN GOVERNMENT WHICH SEEMED ONLY FOLLOWING THE LINE OF THE GOLD MEIR GROUP AND WAS SITTING TIGHT WITH THE OLD FORTRESS MENTALITY. HE URGED THE U.S. TO MOVE BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE AND REPEATED THAT OPPORTUNITY HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY MISSED FOR JORDAN AND IT SHOULD NOT BE REPEATED WITH EGYPT. SYRIA TOO HAD TO HAVE SOMETHING AND SADAT NEEDED SOME ASSURANCES ON THIS POINT IN ORDER TO MOVE.

5. SENATOR NOTED HIGH PLACE ACCORDED RETURN OF JERUSALEM IN FAISAL-HUSSEIN COMMUNIQUE AND KING REPLIED IT IS CLEARLY LAST PHASE OF STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS, NOT THE FIRST, NOTING THAT FAISAL STILL ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO JERUSALEM AND IMPLYING COMMUNIQUE DRAFTED THEREBY TO ASSURE HIS SUPPORT. KING STRESSED THAT ISRAELI BUILDING PROGRAM IN ARAB JERUSALEM GREATLY DISTRESSED HIM AND ALL THE ARABS. COULDN'T THERE BE A STANDSTILL AT LEAST?

7. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION, THE KING SAID THAT JORDAN HAD NO PROBLEM WITH ISRAEL EXISTING IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITHIN PRE-1967 BORDERS AND THAT ARABS HAD NO WAY TO PROVIDE ANY REAL GUARANTEE OF THAT POSITION, ONLY GOOD FAITH AND A MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF ABSOLUTE NEED TO HAVE BOTH SIDES LIVE IN PEACE.

8. SENATOR MADE CLEAR THAT IF ISRAEL ATTACKED BY ARABS U.S. WOULD PROVIDE FULL SUPPORT, BUT THAT HE HAD TOLD ISRAELIS IN TEHRAN BEFORE BEGINNING PRESENT TRIP THROUGH ARAB WORLD THAT IF ISRAEL PRE-EMPTED AGAINST ARABS, OR PROVOKED ARABS INTO ANY ATTACK HE WOULD, IN SPITE OF HIS LONG RECORD OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, WORK ACTIVELY AGAINST U.S. SUPPORT. FURTHER, IF ISRAEL FAILED TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE HE WOULD DO THE SAME. FURTHER, HE WOULD WORK ACTIVELY TO BUILD STRONG SENATE CONSENSUS IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY IN THEIR UNITED EFFORT TO BRING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST. KING WAS CLEARLY PLEASED AND GRATIFIED BY THIS STATEMENT BY SENATOR PERCY AND SAID SUCH A STAND HAD HIS FULL SUPPORT.

9. ON JORDAN AND PLO AND PALESTINIAN STATE, KING STATED THAT HE
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HAD REAL DOUBTS ABOUT SUPPORT WHICH PLO HAD IN EAST BANK AND SIMILARLY WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THEM IN WEST BANK. HE STILL FAVORED SELF-DETERMINATION IN WEST BANK THROUGH REFERENDUM. SOMETHING ALONG LINES OF THE UNITED ARAB KINGDOM PROPOSAL WAS STILL THE ONLY REALISTIC PROPOSAL OFFERED AND HE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE IT MIGHT WORK. HE THOUGHT EGYPT AND OTHERS WERE COMING TO THIS POINT OF VIEW AND OVER TIME SUCH A SOLUTION MIGHT EVOKE. HE DID NOT THINK ISRAELIS WOULD

PERMIT A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE TO EMERGE WHICH WAS NOT IN SOME WAY GUARANTEED BY JORDAN. FINALLY HE NOTED THAT SUCH A STATE WOULD HAVE TO BE ECONOMICALLY LINKED WITH JORDAN IN SOME FASHION IN ORDER TO PROSPER.

10. ON BILATERAL RELATIONS SENATOR NOTED THAT HE AND SENATE WERE FAVORABLE TO PROGRAM FOR JORDAN AND HE BELIEVED SUCH SUPPORT WOULD CONTINUE.

11. KING DESCRIBED JORDAN INTEREST IN HELPING IN THE GULF AND NOTED HE WOULD BE SENDING A BATTALION TO OMAN TO HELP IN THE DHOFAR AREA.

12. KING EXPLAINED DOMESTIC AND GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES HE IS MAKING IN FAMILIAR TERMS.

13. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN NO SHIFT IN THE JORDANIAN POSITION. TALK WITH SENATOR PERCY WAS AN EXCELLENT REVIEW OF JORDANIAN PERSPECTIVES IN THE AREA AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. KING WAS CLEARLY PLEASED AT SENATOR'S CAREFUL QUESTIONING AND OPEN MINDED EXPRESSION OF NEWS FAVORABLE TO A BALANCED U.S. POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE NEED FOR PROGRESS IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. NO ONE HAS SO ARTICULATEDLY PHRASED THE NEED FOR SENATORIAL SUPPORT FOR OUR PRESENT POLICIES OR QUITE SO PERSUASIVELY PUT THE CASE FOR THAT SUPPORT. HE IS THE ANSWER TO EVERY AMBASSADOR'S PRAYER IN THE AREA FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN SET FORTH WITH AUTHORITY THE VIEW FROM CAPITAL HILL. END COMMENT.
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